

Amendments to the Claims:

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c) and the revised amendment practice effective July 30, 2003, please add new claims 15 and 16 as indicated herein. A complete listing of all the claims in the application is provided immediately below.

COMPLETE LISTING OF ALL CLAIMS IN THE APPLICATION

Claims 1-23 (canceled).

24. (original) A fiber optic plug and receptacle assembly comprising:
a fiber optic plug comprising:
a plug body having a shroud proximate one end thereof, the shroud defining at least one opening; and
a fiber optic connector disposed within the plug body and comprising a connector housing and a plug ferrule at least partially disposed within the connector housing; and
a fiber optic receptacle for mating with the fiber optic plug, the fiber optic receptacle comprising:
a receptacle housing defining an internal cavity opening through opposed ends; and
an adapter sleeve disposed within the internal cavity defined by the receptacle housing, the adapter sleeve defining a lengthwise extending passage for receiving a portion of the plug ferrule of the fiber optic plug,
wherein the shroud and the adapter sleeve are sized such that portions of the adapter sleeve are disposed within the at least one opening defined by the shroud once the plug ferrule of the fiber optic plug is inserted into the adapter sleeve.
25. (original) The fiber optic plug and receptacle assembly according to claim 24, wherein a fiber optic cable is coupled to the fiber optic receptacle from the plug body through a crimp band, such that tension applied to the fiber optic cable is therefore diverted away from the fiber optic connector.

26. (original) The fiber optic plug and receptacle assembly according to claim 24, wherein the plug body extends lengthwise between a first end and a second end, the first end opposed to the second end, and the openings defined by the shroud extend lengthwise from at least a medial portion of the shroud to the first end of the plug body.

27. (original) The fiber optic plug and receptacle assembly according to claim 24, wherein the at least one opening defined by the shroud is a pair of openings aligned with one another.

28. (original) The fiber optic plug and receptacle assembly according to claim 24, wherein the lengthwise extending plug body defines a longitudinal axis, and wherein the plug body further comprises:

a shaft proximate the shroud; and

a collar for engaging the fiber optic receptacle, the collar disposed upon the shaft such that travel of the collar in the lengthwise direction is limited while permitting rotation of the collar about the longitudinal axis relative to the shaft.

Claims 29-45 (canceled).

46. (new) A fiber optic plug and receptacle assembly comprising:

a fiber optic receptacle; and

a fiber optic plug for mating with the fiber optic receptacle, the fiber optic plug comprising:

a fiber optic connector comprising a connector housing and a plug ferrule at least partially disposed within the connector housing and capable of being mounted upon an end portion of at least one optical fiber; and

a plug body extending lengthwise between a first end and a second end, the first end opposed from the second end, and having a shroud proximate the first end thereof, the shroud defining a pair of openings on opposite sides thereof, the openings extending lengthwise from at least a medial portion of the shroud to the first end of the plug body.

47. (new) A fiber optic plug and receptacle assembly comprising:
- a fiber optic plug and;
 - a fiber optic receptacle for mating with the fiber optic plug, the fiber optic receptacle comprising:
 - a receptacle housing defining an internal cavity opening through opposed first and second ends;
 - an adapter sleeve disposed within the internal cavity defined by the receptacle housing, the adapter sleeve defining a lengthwise extending passage opening through opposed first and second ends for receiving and aligning respective ferrules; and
 - a bias member disposed within the receptacle housing, the bias member operably engaging the adapter sleeve so as to urge the adapter sleeve toward the first end of the receptacle housing.